

IN THE FIGURES:

Pursuant to 37 *CFR* 1.121(d), Applicants file with this Amendment, a Formal Drawing Transmittal Letter that describes a change to each of original Figs. 1 and 7B in this application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's approval of these changes.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated March 29, 2005. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3-12 will remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled and claims 13-20 are added. The amendments to the claims and the newly added claims are supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment. Payment to cover the fee associated with the new independent claims is enclosed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's express indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. While these two claims were objected to, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicates they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 5 and 6 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and are thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4, and 7-11 have been amended so that they ultimately depend from claim 5, and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, new claims 14-20 mirror claims 3, 4, and 7-11 but depend from claim 6 and are thus likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to include the features of previous claim 5. Moreover, new claims 13 mirrors previous claim 12 with previous claim 6 incorporated therein. Hence, these two claims too are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on October 9, 2003. However, a signed copy of the PTO 1449 was not attached to the Office Action dated March 29, 2005. Hence, Applicants respectfully requested that a signed copy of the PTO 1449 be returned to Applicants with the next Office Action.

* * * * *

The Figures are objected to for the following reasons. Figures 1 and 7B are objected to for not including the Prior Art designation. In response, new Formal Figures 1 and 7B are attached hereto and include the Prior Art designation thus accommodating this objection.

The figures are also objected to for purportedly not including reference signs 13a and 13b. However, Applicants kindly direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 4 which shows both reference signs. Reference sign 13a is located on the right hand side of Figure 4 just below reference sign 13. Reference sign 13b is located above the Figure and just below reference sign 35. Hence, withdrawal of this objection is requested without the need for further changes to the Figures.

The Figures are also objected to for including reference signs (i.e. 901 and 911) which are purportedly not described in the specification. However, Applicants point out reference sign 901 is described at page 3, paragraph [0002], line 10. Likewise, reference sign 911 is described at page 3, paragraph [0002], line 8. Both reference signs are also included in the specification in paragraph [0028]. Hence, withdrawal of this objection is also requested without the need for further changes to the Figures.

* * *

Claims 1, 4, and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,542,525). This rejection erroneously referred to "Claims 1-12 . . .," disregarding the favorable indication for each of claims 5 and 6.

As explained above, the claims have been amended to ensure that they all include the features recited in previous claims 5 or 6. Thus, since claims 5 and 6 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, all the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and this rejection is overcome. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

* * * * *

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objections and rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033035.133.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033035.133.

Respectfully submitted,

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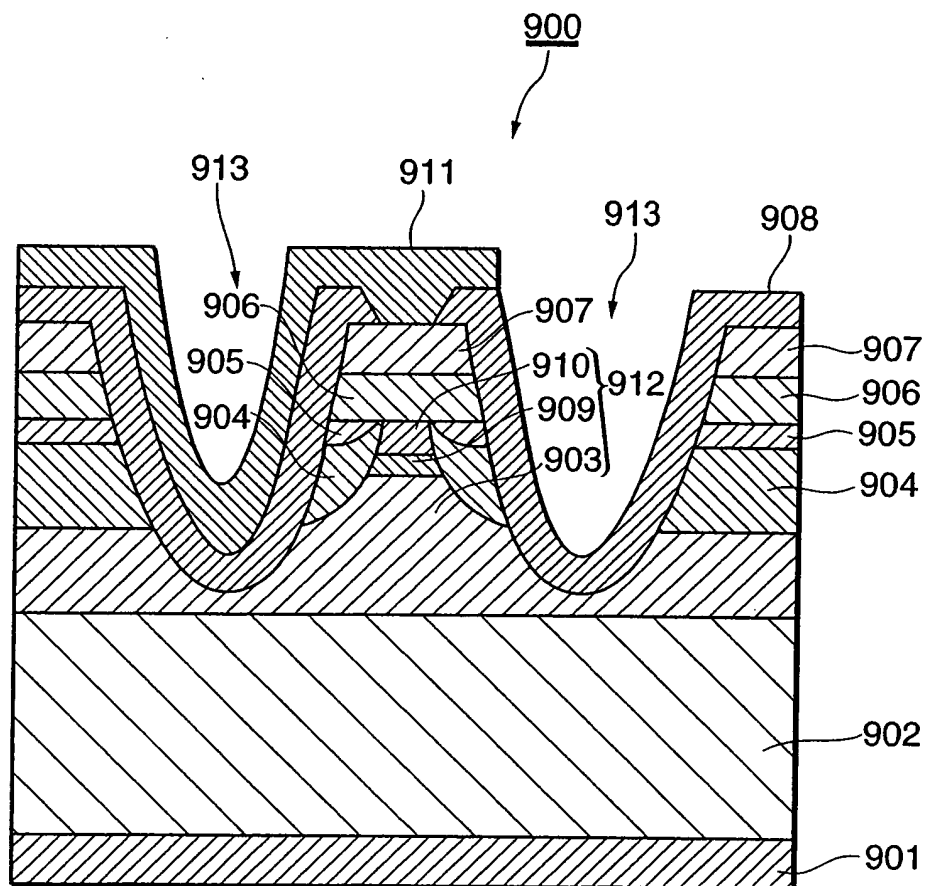
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Fig.1 Prior Art





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Fig.7A

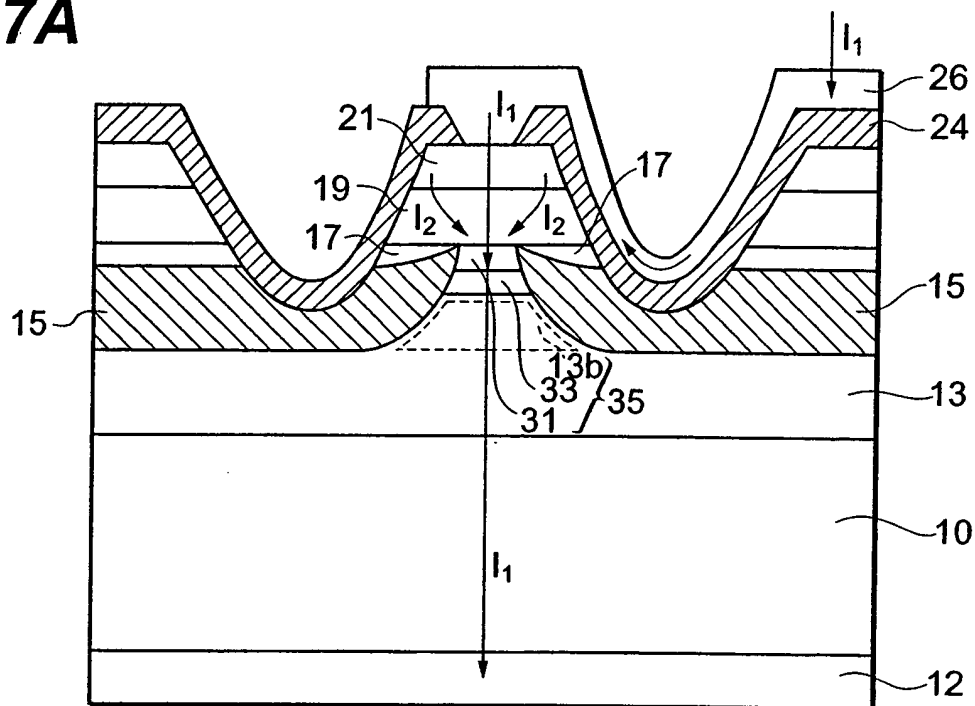


Fig.7B Prior Art

